



STORM SPOTTER TRAINING



BASIC SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING PROGRAM MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2012 AT 7:00PM AT THE HUTTO HIGH SCHOOL LECTURE HALL

ADVANCE SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING PROGRAM MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2012 AT 7:00PM AT THE EAST WILLIAMSON COUNTY HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

RSVP TO: SAFEHUTTO@HUTTOTX.GOV



What is SKYWARN®?

The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service

(NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms. In the average year, 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes occur across the United States. These events threatened lives and property.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

SKYWARN® storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that their efforts have given communities the precious gift of time--seconds and minutes that can help save lives.

Who is Eligible?

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication, such as HAM radio, to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, nursing homes or who have a re-

sponsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become a spotter.

How Can I Get Involved?

NWS has 122 local Weather Forecast Offices, each with a Warning Coordination Meteorologist, who is responsible for administering the SKYWARN® program in their local area. Training is conducted at these local offices and covers:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

GET TRAINED & INVOLVED

BASIC SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING PROGRAM

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2012 AT 7:00PM

HUTTO HIGH SCHOOL LECTURE HALL

101 FM 685

HUTTO, TEXAS 78634

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MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2012 AT 7:00PM

EAST WILLIAMSON COUNTY HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

555 LIMMER LOOP

ROUND ROCK, TEXAS 78634

RSVP TO: SAFEHUTTO@HUTTOTX.GOV

HAVE A QUESTION?

PLEASE CALL PATTI GILMORE AT (512) 759-4034

Thunderstorms... Tornadoes... Be Prepared... It's Up to YOU!

Each year despite advance warning, many people are killed or seriously injured by tornadoes and severe thunderstorms. Some did not hear the warning, others heard the warning but did not take appropriate action. The following preparedness information, combined with timely severe weather watches and warnings, may save your life. If you hear a warning or observe threatening skies, only YOU can make the decision to seek safety.

This could be the most important decision you will ever make.

What YOU can do before Severe Weather Strikes...

Develop a plan for you and your family at home, work, school, and when outdoors. Practice your plan. Identify a "safe room" or location in your home and prepare it. Your local Red Cross office can help you with information on how to be ready for any disaster.

Have a NOAA Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone and battery back-up to receive warnings. A radio scanner tuned to the local SKYWARN frequency can give you even more "up-to-the-minute" information.

Keep a state or county highway map nearby to follow storm movement from weather warnings. Listen to radio and television for weather watch, and warning information.

What to Listen For...

Severe Thunderstorm Watch:
NWS Meteorologists have determined that severe thunderstorms are likely to occur in your area. Watch the sky and stay tuned in for when warnings are issued.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning:
NWS Meteorologists have determined that a severe storm is occurring or likely to occur. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life

and property for those in the path of the storm.



Tornado Watch:

NWS Meteorologists have determined that conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop. Remain alert for approaching storms. Be prepared to take shelter.

Tornado Warning:

NWS Meteorologists have determined that a tornado is occurring or likely to occur. Take shelter immediately!

Tornado Safety Rules:

- The safest place to be is an underground shelter, basement, or safe room.
- If no underground shelter or safe room is available, a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safest alternative.
- Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes. Abandon mobile homes and go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter immediately.
- If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building.
- If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. Now you have the following options as a last resort:
 - Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible.
 - If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car, and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.





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PRESENTED BY:

PAUL YURA

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE METEOROLOGIST

HOSTED BY:



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